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## Acheson set basis of U.S. diplomacy

by KENNETH J. FREED  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON— Former Secretary of State Dean Acheson died Tuesday night, 18 years after leaving the post he used to establish policies that still serve as the foundation for much of America's diplomatic strategy.

The family doctor said Acheson, 78, apparently died of a heart attack.

Although he served as an important U.S. negotiator in the monetary reforms conference of the early 1930's, it was as secretary of state during the last four years of the Harry Truman administration that Acheson made his mark on American destiny.

During the period from 1949 to 1953, Acheson was the major factor in formulating the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, signing the peace treaty with Japan, outlining the political strategy of the Korean war, determining U.S. attitudes toward the Communist government of China and resisting the domestic onslaught of the so-called McCarthy era.

While attitudes toward China and Moscow are now relaxing, many of these policies remain in effect today under the administration of a Republican President who was one of Acheson's major critics during the Truman years—Richard Nixon.

And it was Nixon who led the tributes to Acheson after his death.

"He was a man not only of great achievement," the President said in a statement, "but also of rare intellect, of rigorous conscience and of profound devotion to his country."

"As President I have been deeply appreciative of the advice that I have asked and that he has so freely and graciously given. I shall greatly miss both his wise counsel and his penetrating wit."

"The nation, the Western alliance, and the world all share in the loss of one of their staunchest champions."

Former President Truman, described by Acheson as one of the greatest Americans, did not have an immediate comment but Mrs. Truman said "I know he'll be very disturbed."

It was another part of President Nixon's statement that the importance of Acheson to today's world was underlined.

"Of those who stand for a time

in places of power many are quickly forgotten," Nixon said. "It is a measure of Dean Acheson's stature as man and statesman that almost 20 years after his service as secretary of state he continued to be recognized as one of the towering figures of his time."

While in office he was a major target of Sen. Joseph McCarthy, the Wisconsin Republican who made a name by alleging the State Department was dominated by Communists or their sympathizers.

One of the most dramatic crises of Acheson's life came during that period when a friend and former State Department associate, Alger Hiss, was accused of being a Communist.

Acheson refused to disavow his friendship with Hiss, who later was convicted and sentenced to prison for perjury in denying he had been a Communist.

Yet, it was his tough stand on Communism that led to the latest criticism of his role as a policymaker.

Under the leadership of a new school of American historians, critics charge Acheson set back the chances of eased relations with China and the Soviet Union by a misunderstanding and hysterical view of their policies and capabilities.

Acheson also stood by the Vietnam policies of former President Lyndon B. Johnson. And while he later recanted some of his hawkish views, charging he had been misled about the real situation in Indochina, Acheson supported Nixon's Vietnam policies.

Acheson practiced law in Washington after leaving the government, but he still spent much time as a presidential advisor.

A man with a strong sense of propriety befitting the son of an English-born Episcopal minister, Acheson publicly labeled today's youth-oriented society as often irresponsible and permissive.

Yet, a reading of his many books and articles and the testimonials of his friends and relatives indicate Dean Acheson was a man of warmth, understanding, tolerance for human nature, and loyalty.

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